

U.S. Army Requested To Keep Coach in ROK

In a formal letter of request to Gen. John H. Michaelis, commander of the Eighth U.S. Army, the Korean government has asked for the extended services of Capt. John Ritch as adviser and head coach for the Korean



Ritch
Olympic basketball squad. The letter was signed by Hong Jong-chul, minister of education and senior official in charge of the national sports program.

A star player at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Capt. Ritch graduated in 1965, winning selection by the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Association as that year's "outstanding scholar-athlete."

He then went on a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford Univer-

sity where he coached the university team to two British collegiate titles.

Earlier this year, while a member of the Eighth Army All-Star team, Capt. Ritch became acquainted with ROK officials and was asked to assume a coaching position. With permission from the Eighth Army, he has been coaching Korean players for several months.

The Korean players have developed a strong admiration for Capt. Ritch and are anxious for his continuation as coach. Korean star Shin Dong-pa described Capt. Ritch as "indispensable" to the Korean team's preparation for the Asian Games to be held in Bangkok in December. Capt. Ritch, who spent six months as a company commander on the Demilitarized Zone, has been in Korea for 14 months.